Kentucky Medicaid Requires HIPAA 837 Format for EDI Submissions by September 1, 2004

The Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) has decided that effective September 1, 2004, all electronic claims must be submitted to Unisys, Kentucky Medicaid's fiscal agent, in the approved HIPAA 837 X12N standard transaction format. The last day Unisys will accept electronic claims in the legacy format is August 31, 2004. Unisys will begin rejecting electronic claims in the legacy format as of September 1, 2004.

On September 23, 2003 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a contingency plan to accept noncompliant electronic transactions after the October 16, 2003 compliance deadline. The plan ensured continued processing of claims from many providers who were not able to meet the deadline. The plan also allowed additional time for trading partners and submitters to implement system changes that moved them toward HIPAA compliance. DMS, in accordance with CMS, also elected at that time to waive the requirement for providers to bill HIPAA compliant electronic claims.

The Kentucky Medicaid website (www.kymmis.com, along with a link from http://chs.state.ky.us) will be updated in the near future and will contain information on the testing process, issues that have been encountered with those providers and subscribers already testing, and how they were resolved, as well as a 'Frequently Asked Questions' area where questions and concerns that are received during testing can be posted and addressed for reference.

If you have not begun testing and need testing information, please contact the EDI Department at Unisys (800) 205-4696 or (502) 226-1140.